 DELEGATION OF CROATIA

POSTION PAPER

Committe: ECOSOC

Country: Croatia

Agenda Item:

1- Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women in Developing Economies

Croatia thinks promoting gender equality and empowering womenis not only a human rights issue but also a key to development. . We know that when more women join the workforce, the available talent pool expands significantly. More workers mean more productivity and innovation. According to the World Bank, gender equality in labor markets could add trillions of dollars to global GDP. Empowered women start businesses, create jobs, and bring new ideas to the market. Closing gender gaps lifts the whole community.

Croatia is trying to improve the rights and benefits of women through empowering them to join the labor market and to ensure gender equaltity for women in economic and public life.

Feminist movement in Croatia started in early 19th century, mainly focusing on gender based violence, systemic inequality and reproductive rights. Abortion has been legal since 1978 in Croatia but Croatia allowed doctors to refuse to perform abortions if they aren’t willing to, which has became such a struggle for Croatian woman whom are seeking abortions. Since some hospitals doesn’t have no doctors willing to perform the procedure Woman are being forced to travel abroad and pay for these services.

Also the strong influence of the catholic church in Croatia is pressuring woman on this topic. Anti-abortion groups are being supported by churchs and disinformation campaigns are becoming an obstacle for woman seeking abortions.

We see a huge gap in women’s place in the labor market in Croatioa. According to a study in 2023, only about 61% of woman in Croatia are employed compared to 71% of men. And only about 12% of companies have women in top executive roles compared to 88% percent with male executives... Another huge gap is seen in leadership positions where women only make up about 19% of board members in Croatioan companies. Linked with these issues, another very important topic is the gender pay gap. On average, woman earn 16% less than men do for same amount of work.

Ithas also been reported that women spend about 20 hours more on unpaid tasks such as housework and childcare per week and unfortunately these tasks often lead to career breaks especially for mothers.

What can be done in order to avoid these obstacles are quite simple. Expanding affordable childcare and eldercare services would help woman concencrate on their profession better. Work places could also help them by giving more flexible working arrangements. And of course woman can be couraged to participate more in work fiels by strengthening of the enforcement of equal pays law.

Sourses:

1. <https://data.unwomen.org/country/croatia#:~:text=Globally%2C%20some%20progress%20on%20women's,parliament%20were%20held%20by%20women>.
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abortion_in_Croatia#:~:text=Abortion%20(Croatian%3A%20poba%C4%8Daj%2C%20abortus,and%20in%20specific%20circumstances%20afterwards>.